

make the authenticated species and subspecies 213 in number, besides which there are 44 "doubtful and erroneous" and 2 extinct (the Great Auk and the Labrador Duck). The Shore-Lark of Labrador was found to be an "abundant summer resident along the coast, breeding wherever there is barren ground." It is referred to typical *Otocorys alpestris*, though other authorities have recorded the Labrador form as *O. a. praticola*. A single example of the Turkey-Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) was obtained in Labrador in November 1906.

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VIII.—*Letters, Extracts, Notes, &c.*

WE have received the following letters addressed "To the Editors of 'The Ibis'" :—

SIRs,—In the number of 'The Ibis' for July last (p. 378), Mr. Scott B. Wilson, among the results of his collecting-trip to the Eastern Pacific, announces the discovery of an interesting new Parrakeet of the genus *Coriphilus* (*C. cyaneus*). On examining his description and Mr. Frohawk's figure of the supposed new species, I am of opinion that what has taken place is simply a renaming of the *Psittacus cyaneus* of Sparrman (Mus. Carlss. vol. ii. pl. 27), a name relegated long since to the synonyms of *Coriphilus taitianus* (Gm.). This conclusion is corroborated by the statements of both authors, which shew the entire absence of any white markings, as well as the dark colouring of the iris, bill, and feet, which in *C. taitianus* are, like the iris, red. Sparrman describes the bill as "*pallidum, apice fuscum*," but it may be supposed that such a colouring had originated in the well-known way from the desiccation of the corneous stratum. We know of specimens belonging to this species the underparts of which are red, while the white colour in the plumage is wanting or is confined to the throat. The first stage is shown by "La Perruche Sparrman" of Levaillant (Hist. Nat. Perr. vol. i. p. 128, pl. 66), the latter by the figure which Messrs. Forbes and Robinson give of a variety of *C. taitianus* (Bull. Liverpool Mus. vol. i. p. 6, pl. 2). Kuhl (Consp.

Psitt. p. 68) also describes "*Psittacus sparrmanni* Vaill." as "toto corpore cæruleo, collo antico cærulescenti-albo, rostro pedibusque rubris." These descriptions may prove the correctness of Dr. Finsch's presumption that the individuals with red corneous parts and white on the throat are the young of *C. taitianus*—a conclusion drawn by Count Salvadori as regards the specimen figured by Messrs. Forbes and Robinson ('Ibis,' 1905, p. 413). On the other hand, I cannot agree with Dr. Finsch's conjecture (*l. c.*) that Levaillant's remarks on the original of his figure are erroneous, the figure being merely a copy of Sparrman's plate, especially as Mr. Wilson's discovery has proved the existence of a uniformly-coloured blue species with a darker shade on the under surface. Therefore, in my opinion, the genus *Coriphilus*, although rapidly approaching extinction, contains at present the following three species:—

1. *C. TAITIANUS* Gmelin (1788).  
 "La Perruche Sparrman" Levaillant (1841).  
*Psittacus sparrmani* Bechstein (1812).
2. *C. CYANEUS* Sparrman (1787).  
*C. cyaneus* Scott Wilson (1907).
3. *C. ULTRAMARINUS* Kuhl (1820).

I am, Sirs, yours &c.,

A. JACOBI.

Kgl. Zoologisches Museum,  
 Dresden, Zwinger,  
 Oct. 4, 1907.

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SIRS,—We are engaged upon a work dealing with the Ornithology of Sussex, and are very anxious to secure the co-operation of any of your readers who may be interested in the subject. We shall therefore deem it a great act of courtesy if all observers, conversant with the Sussex avifauna, will kindly furnish us with notes and memoranda.

Particularly would we ask for information concerning not only the occurrence of rare and casual migrants (in spring, autumn, and winter), but also on the *distribution*—and this is a great point—of all the scarce and local *breeding* species,

such as the Raven, Hobby, Montagu's Harrier, Hoopoe, Golden Oriole, Dartford Warbler, Grasshopper-Warbler, Marsh-Warbler, the two Spotted Woodpeckers, the Ring-Ouzel, Hawfinch, Goldfinch, Lesser Redpoll, Tree-Sparrow, and Cirl Bunting. We have, from time to time, found the nests of some of these species; but as it is manifestly impossible for two men to work the whole of the county, we should very much appreciate notes dealing with the nesting of *any* of the more local birds (especially those above mentioned), which doubtless breed or have bred in portions of the county, but which may have escaped our notice. We should also be glad of any list of the summer-migrants from different parts of Sussex which has been kept over a series of years. We may assure our informants that, whenever it is thought necessary, the exact breeding-sites of the rarer birds will be suppressed.

Yours &c.,

Oct. 14th, 1907.

H. A. BRYDEN,

10 Gore Park Avenue, Eastbourne.

JOHN WALPOLE-BOND,

Horsham Vicarage, Sussex.

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SIRS,—In 'The Ibis,' 1907, p. 574, Mr. Collingwood Ingram says: "Mr. Pycraft informs me that in *Panurus biarmicus* the markings are differently arranged and are white instead of black, an interesting discovery for which we are indebted in the first place to Miss E. L. Turner." In justice to myself, and without wishing in any wise to detract from the observational powers of my friend Miss Turner, allow me to point out that on page 217 of Mr. A. Dutt's book 'The Norfolk Broads,' I wrote as follows of the Bearded Tit: "From babyhood these birds are beautiful to prying eyes, although the beauty is concealed until hunger opens the nestling's mouth, when, upon the roof may be seen four rows of onyx spots set in deep pink carnelian."

Yours &c.,

Brunstead Rectory,  
Stalham, Norfolk.

Nov. 5, 1907.

MAURICE C. H. BIRD.

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SIRS,—As I shall not be able to be present at the next meeting of the B.O.C., I should like, with your approval, to draw the attention of the Members of the B.O.U. to an atrocity which took place this spring in the Azores, in connexion with the very rare and almost extinct Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula murina*). In the space of eight weeks by diligent hunting FIFTY-THREE specimens of this interesting bird were shot by a professional collector and sent to Prof. Koenig (of Bonn), who employed him. I myself saw the particulars, measurements, sex, &c., of each one of these birds while I was at S. Miguel, and can vouch for the accuracy of the figures, of which I made a note immediately.

I consider this lamentable and greedy slaughter an excellent example of the danger of a policy which advocates that when a bird is likely to become extinct, the best course to pursue is to shoot it down for preservation in museums. This may be a good policy if it is absolutely certain that the species is on the verge of extinction and cannot be saved. Mr. Ogilvie-Grant, for example, went to the Azores two or three years ago and had the greatest difficulty in procuring *two* or *three* specimens of this bird, even with the assistance of the peasants. It was, therefore, presumed to be practically extinct, and that the sooner the remaining examples were secured in the interests of science the better. But that they are or were by no means hopelessly doomed is proved by the fact that this collector of Dr. Koenig, who was engaged to make a collection of all the birds on the island, was able to procure 53 examples of this rare species. When one remembers the skulking habits, love of solitude, and the very inconspicuous colours of this bird, it is not too much to hope that there may still be left far more examples than are supposed to exist and enough to perpetuate their race for many years. It is very unlikely that the woods and fastnesses in the mountains at the east end of the island of S. Miguel will ever be seriously interfered with, and if steps were taken to stop this mere hungry greed for the acquisition of a fine series of a rare bird not possessed by rival collectors, I believe its existence could still be

assured. In a conversation I had with Major Chanes on the subject, he seemed to regard the preservation of birds as almost too hopeless a problem to contend with, owing to want of funds and organisation. That it is far from being so it is unnecessary for me to point out.

I am, Sirs, yours &c.,

PERCY R. LOWE.

Le Nid, Monte Carlo,  
Principauté de Monaco,  
Oct. 2nd, 1907.

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*The Bombay Natural History Society.*—We are glad to announce that Mr. Norman Boyd Kinnear, M.B.O.U., who has been for some time acting as honorary assistant to Mr. Eagle Clarke in the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh, has been appointed Keeper of the Museum of the Natural History Society of Bombay. Mr. Kinnear, who is a great-grandson of the late Sir William Jardine, will shortly leave England to take up his new appointment.

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*Recent Additions to the Berlin Museum.*—In the 'Ornithologische Monatsbericht' for November last we are told of several important collections of birds lately received at Berlin. Messrs. Niedieck and Hilgert have sent in 240 skins from Eregli (the present terminus of the Bagdad Railway) and the adjoining Taurus Mountains. They are referable to 79 species, amongst which is a new Goldfinch, *Carduelis niediecki*. Herr Herrman, on his return from Bolivia and the Pilcomayo, has brought 300 specimens of birds. Herr Oberförster Hafs has sent from Tchün-tau, in China, 128 specimens, amongst which are representatives of 14 species new to the avifauna of Kiautschou. Herr Tessman has contributed many birds from the Spanish Fan-country of West Africa, and Dr. Gruner a good series of birds and eggs from Iceland. So we see that our German friends have good correspondents in all parts of the world.

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*The Duke Adolf Frederick of Mecklenburg's African Expedition.*—We also learn from the Ornithol. Monatsb.